

## **Syllabus**

**Introduction to International Studies, ISTD 1100 – 02/M01**

**Saint Louis University (St. Louis and Madrid campuses)**

**Spring 2017 (March 19 – May 10)**

**Online**

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### **Course Description**

The university catalog describes this course as “an introduction to the literature and themes of International Studies. It emphasizes intercultural awareness, cultural interaction, and problem solving in an international context.” International Studies is the interdisciplinary analysis of global processes that shape international trends and the lives of human beings throughout the world. This course gives students an introductory awareness of the methods and topics of International Studies through a broad, humanistic socio-political approach that can serve as a foundation for further international studies in numerous fields of study offered at Saint Louis University.

### **Course Requirements**

This is ‘only’ a one-hour class that is entirely online. If you have not ever taken an online class before, you should be aware they don’t often “feel” the same as face-to-face course, that online classes require just as much time as regular courses, and in many cases more effective time management than on-ground classes. If you do not regularly schedule time to do the work, it is easy to fall behind or not participate enough, and you will not likely be happy with your performance.

Aside from your active engagement with the reading, other requirements will include a syllabus quiz, one three-to-five page paper, participation in online discussions and debates, and a final exam. The primary tool for this course will be the course’s SLU Blackboard page. You must have regular and reliable access to a proper computer with updated software and a high-speed internet connection. You must also frequently check your SLU email account.

### **Course Materials**

The following materials are required for this course:

- Reserve materials available through Blackboard
- Other materials linked/provided by the instructor on Blackboard

There is no textbook or other material to purchase for this course (you’re welcome!).

### **Grading**

Students will earn their grades in this course as follows:

Syllabus Quiz	5%
Discussion Boards	30%
Paper	25%
Final exam	40%

The relative number of points available for each assignment in the Blackboard My Grades center will correspond to these percentages. If you have any questions about your grades at any point, please ask. More on each of these activities below.

### **Course Activities:**

International Studies starts in the classroom, but extends out into the local and global community as well. The learning activities in this course on which you will be evaluated are as follows:

Syllabus Quiz: This is the easiest 5% of the course grade. The subject of the quiz is the syllabus and structure of the course. You may refer to the whatever sources you want –including the syllabus and course page, and take the quiz as many times as your like during the first week until you get a perfect score – and you should! The purpose is to reward you for becoming familiar with the structure of the course and the page.

Online Discussions/Debates: Most of the interaction between students in the class and the instructor will take place in non-synchronous online discussion boards in Blackboard, where we will have discussions and debates on important issues in the readings. The first week will include an introductory activity, but the rest will be structured around the weekly readings. All students will be assigned groups and perspectives for the online discussions – you must stick to the position assigned to your group in a discussion, even if you don't agree with it. You'll have a chance to talk about your own points of view as well at times. At least five, substantive, high-quality posts spread throughout the week are required for full discussion credit each week. While these discussions are not primarily research assignments, finding, using, and properly citing at least one outside source per week is required for full credit. No credit can be given for posts before or after the week. An online discussion grading rubric is available on Blackboard.

Paper: Students must find and attend an international or intercultural event either on their campuses or off, and write a 3-5 page critical reflection paper on the experience. Each paper must be **at least three full pages**, word-processed, in a 12-point proportional font with one-inch margins. The paper will be due at the end of Week Five on April 22. **All papers must be submitted through Blackboard.**

“International or intercultural event” includes such things as public festivals, public lectures on an international or intercultural topic, a straight stage play adapted from an international work, a museum exhibition with a dominant international or intercultural element, or other similar event. Meetings or requirements for other courses do not qualify, nor do watching foreign films, eating out at ethnic restaurants, and such without some other program element. ATLAS week provides dozens of opportunities on the St. Louis campus. If you have any doubt that an event qualifies, please check \*first\*. Please note that a critical reflection paper is not a report or summary of the event. It must involve substantial, critical analysis of and reflection on the international/intercultural content of the event.

Final: The final will also be an essay-style exam on the topics/readings/discussions from materials from the whole of the course, taken in Blackboard. The readings and your notes, as

well as the debate/discussions and questions, are the best study materials. This is an “open-book” final exam: you may use notes, texts, and other outside aids, but it is \*not\* a “take-home” test in the sense that you do not have unlimited time to write it. You will have three days, May 8-10, the short final “week” of the class to prepare for and take the exam, but note you will have only two hours to write your exam and only one attempt, so time to consult aids will be very limited. You should make arrangements not to be disturbed while you take the exam. You should plan to use a standard computer for the exam – tablets and handheld devices are \*not\* recommended. More details will be given as the exam draws near.

### **Provisional Schedule:**

The course is divided into eight week-long units called “weeks.” Course weeks begin on Monday at 12:00 am and end at 11:59 pm the following Sunday. Central Daylight Time (GMT-5) will be the governing time for the course, regardless of students’ location. Once a week is over, you may not participate in the discussions or activities for that week, but all of the course materials will be available for the whole course. Please note that the course and the eighth and final week, the exam week, is short. It ends on Thursday night, May 10 – the end of the exam period in Madrid. Do not forget to take the exam by midnight on May 10 CDT!

#### Week One (3/19 - 3/25)

Introduction and Framing International Studies

Cohen, “Yes, It Could Happen Again,” *The Atlantic*

Marber, “Globalization and Its Contents,” *World Policy Journal*

#### Week Two (3/26 - 4/1)

Group Identity, Nationalism, and Globalism

Friedman, “It’s a Flat World, After All,” *New York Times*

Ghemawat, “Why the World Isn’t Flat,” *Foreign Policy*

#### Week Three (4/2 – 4/8)

Population, Global Demography, and Sustainability

Goldstone, “The New Population Bomb: Four Megatrends That Will Change the World,” *Foreign Affairs*

Engelman, “Population and Sustainability,” *Scientific American*

#### Week Four (4/9 - 4/15)

Religion and Secularism in a Contemporary World

Wolf, “And the Winner Is ...” *The Atlantic*

Shah and Toft, “Why God is Winning” *Foreign Policy*

#### Week Five (4/16 - 4/22)

The Developing World

Sachs, “Can Extreme Poverty Be Eliminated?” *Scientific American*

Easterly, “The Ideology of Development,” *Foreign Policy*

International Event Paper due 4/22 at midnight, CDT

Week Six (4/23 - 4/29)

America and the World

Mahbubani, "The Case against the West: America and Europe in the Asian Century,"  
*Foreign Affairs*

Kagan, "Why the World Needs America," *Wall Street Journal*

Week Seven (4/30 - 5/6)

Global Energy Issues

Morse, "Welcome to the Revolution: Why Shale is the Next Shale," *Foreign Policy*

Grunwald, "Seven Myths about Alternative Energy," *Foreign Policy*

Klare, "The End of Easy Everything," *Current History*

Week Eight (5/7-5/10)

Final Exam Week

Prepare for and take online final exam by midnight on May 10

**Other Policies:**

Sometimes there are events in students' lives beyond their control that disrupt or take precedence over their studies. If such events occur, notify the instructor in timely way (if at all possible before missing class or work is late) so appropriate arrangements can be made.

If you have problems, questions, concerns, or constructive complaints, please do not hesitate to contact me at any point in the semester before or after any class meeting, by email, phone, during office hours, or make an appointment to meet with me.

**"Academic Integrity Syllabus Statement**

"Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors. The mission of Saint Louis University is 'the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity.' Accordingly, all acts of falsehood demean and compromise the corporate endeavors of teaching, research, health care, and community service via which SLU embodies its mission. The University strives to prepare students for lives of personal and professional integrity, and therefore regards all breaches of academic integrity as matters of serious concern.

"The governing University-level Academic Integrity Policy was adopted in Spring 2015, and can be accessed on the Provost's Office website

at:[http://www.slu.edu/Documents/provost/academic\\_affairs/University-wide%20Academic%20Integrity%20Policy%20FINAL%20%206-26-15.pdf](http://www.slu.edu/Documents/provost/academic_affairs/University-wide%20Academic%20Integrity%20Policy%20FINAL%20%206-26-15.pdf).

"The college policy is found on the College Website at:

<http://www.slu.edu/college-of-arts-and-sciences-home/undergraduate-education/academic-honesty>.

### **“Students with Special Needs - Disability Services**

<http://www.slu.edu/x24491.xml>

“Any student who feels that he/she may need academic accommodations in order to meet the requirements of this course—as outlined in the syllabus, due to presence of a disability, should contact the Office of Disabilities Services <<http://www.slu.edu/x24491.xml>>. Please telephone the office at 314-977-8885, or visit Suite 331 in the Busch Student Center. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries.

### **“Title IX Syllabus Statement**

“Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual misconduct (e.g. sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, domestic or dating violence), we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, that faculty member must notify SLU’s Title IX coordinator, Anna R. Kratky (DuBourg Hall, room 36; [akratky@slu.edu](mailto:akratky@slu.edu); [314-977-3886](tel:314-977-3886)) and share the basic facts of your experience with her. The Title IX coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus.

“If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the University Counseling Center at 314-977-TALK. To view SLU’s sexual misconduct policy and for resources, please visit the following web addresses:

<http://www.slu.edu/general-counsel-home/office-of-institutional-equity-and-diversity/sexual-misconduct-policy>

[www.slu.edu/here4you](http://www.slu.edu/here4you)”

Students on the Madrid campus should contact the Counseling Center:

[http://spain.slu.edu/student\\_life/counseling\\_services.html](http://spain.slu.edu/student_life/counseling_services.html)

**The Mission of Saint Louis University** is the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity. The University seeks excellence in the fulfillment of its corporate purposes of teaching, research, health care and service to the community. It is dedicated to leadership in the continuing quest for understanding of God's creation and for the discovery, dissemination and integration of the values, knowledge and skills required to transform society in the spirit of the Gospels. As a Catholic, Jesuit university, this pursuit is motivated by the inspiration and values of the Judeo-Christian tradition and is guided by the spiritual and intellectual ideals of the Society of Jesus.